

John Woodhouse Audubon Nine-Banded Armadillo, 1848

Plate 146

Order: Xenarthra Family: Dasypodidae

Species: Dasypus novemcinctur

Common Modern Name: Nine-Banded Armadillo

Show Image One and Image Two together to your students and use the questions below to guide your students in a discussion.

• Look closely at the Nine-Banded Armadillo. Imagine that you are petting the Armadillo. Describe how it would feel. Use different textures in your answer. Does it look soft, hard, bumpy, smooth? Explain. (The most easily recognized feature of an armadillo is its shell. All armadillos have shells, made of true bone that cover their backs. Most armadillos also have bony rings or plates that protect their tails. Because their backs are covered with bone, armadillos are not very flexible.)

Did you know? The armadillo, along with the pangolin (commonly found in Africa and looks like a scaly anteater), are the only mammals to have reptile-like scales instead of fur.

- Now look at the Pronghorn Antelope. Describe how it would feel to pet the antelopes. How are the two animals different?
- Look again at the Armadillo. What shapes do you see on the animal's shell? Describe what you see. Now look closely at the Antelope. Describe the patterns and colors that you see on the antelope's fur.

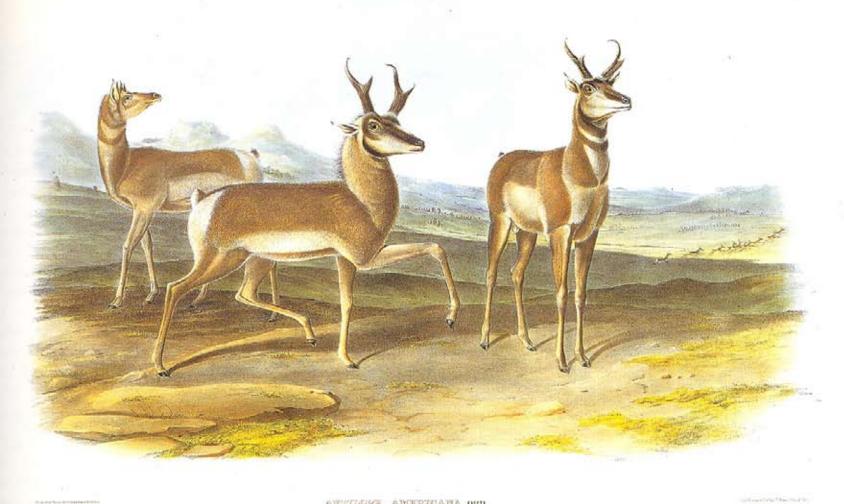
Related Questions continued on back of Image Two.

Nine-Banded Armadillo

The Nine-banded Armadillo's heavy, bony plates make it unique among the North American mammals. This mammal has many different grunts and is constantly on the go with its short, powerful legs and strong claws. It eats insects, arthropods, and earthworms with its long tongue and peg-like teeth and prefers to make its dens and burrows in the soft, dry and warm soils of Texas and other Southern States.

The armadillo has a keen sense of smell, poor eyesight, and will occasionally stand upright on its tail and sniff around for danger or food. Despite appearances, it is quite swift, can swim short distances, and cross small bodies of water by walking on the bottom. Armadillos are commonly seen dead on the side of the road because of their tendency to jump when startled instead of ducking under an oncoming car.

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ANTIGOR ARESTUANA, ORD.

PUMP SPRAIN ARTELDAL.

John Woodhouse Audubon *Prong-Horned Antelope*, 1845

Plate 77

Order: Artiodactyla Family: Antilocarpridae

Species: Antilocapra Americana Common Modern Name: Pronghorn

Show Image One and Image Two together to your students and use the questions below to guide your students in a discussion.

- Many mammals have defense strategies that protect them from predators in the wilderness. By looking at the two images, in what ways do you think the Antelope protects itself? How do you think the Armadillo can protect itself? (Antelope use their horns in defense against predators. Males and sometimes females also use them to establish their position in a herd or to fight rivals. All antelope species have horns, although in some species they are only found on the males. The armadillo's hard shell acts as armor for the animal but an alternative defense is to dig in the ground and burrow in holes to protect itself from predators.)
- In what other ways do animals protect themselves from predators? Think of other mammals and how they show physical signs of self-defense. (i.e., baring of teeth, playing dead, porcupine quills for defense, etc.)
- Look again at both images. Now look closely at the colors in the two landscapes. Describe the colors of the things farthest away, in the background. (i.e. blues and grays used in mountains of Antelope; cool colors of clouds and hill of Armadillo.)
- How do these colors differ from the colors of things up close, in the foreground? (i.e. the deep yellows and browns used in both images.) Explain that artists like Audubon use cooler and duller colors in the background to portray an illusion of depth, and gradually use warmer colors in the middle ground and foreground to make things advance and appear closer in a picture.

#### Pronghorn

Inhabiting the open grass and brush lands of Southern Canada, Western United States, and Mexico, the North American Pronghorn nearly became extinct during the early 1900's with one subspecies still endangered. Although commonly referred to as an antelope, the Pronghorn belongs to a separate species.

The fastest of all American animals, it can maintain speeds of 35-40 miles per hour and reach up to 70 miles per hour with bounds and leaps of 20 feet. The Pronghorn has enormous eyes and excellent peripheral vision. It is active throughout the day and night, alternating sleep with watchful feeding on vegetation. The territorial Pronghorn migrates in herds of up to 100 animals and raises its white rump hairs when alarmed, to produce a flash signal that can be seen for great distances.



John James Audubon Red Texan Wolf

Plate 82

Order: Carnivora Family: Canidae Species: Canis rufus

Common Modern Name: Red Wolf

Show Image Three to your students and use the questions below to guide your students in a discussion.

- Look closely at the image. Imagine walking into the picture. What would it be like? Is the ground soft, dusty, or rough? Do you hear any sounds? Is it warm or cool? Explain.
- What colors do you see? (i.e., reds, browns, greens, blues) Where do you see the colors repeated in the picture? (i.e., reds and browns in foreground and on wolf, blues in the foreground)
- What repeated textures and shapes do you see? (i.e., the shell and rock shapes in foreground, texture of the wolf's fur, and the texture of the trees in background.)

Explain to students that artists like Audubon carefully place each element into a particular place of an artwork. This is called composition—the placement or arrangement of the elements of art in a work. Artists also repeat colors, textures, and shapes to guide our eyes through a painting. This is called rhythm.

- Again look closely. What's going on in this picture?
- Does it look like the wolf is sniffing something? Explain what you see. (He is sniffing at a buffalo bone. Wolves eat meat almost exclusively. Wolves work as a team to attack herds of animals.)

Wolves, like many other animals, communicate by scent marking: leaving their urine on trees or rocks where other wolves will find it. This is to let others know that the area is claimed.

• What other animal(s) do you know of that marks its territory with urine? (dogs, coyotes) Wolves belong to the same family of animals as the dog, or Canidae, you may have as a family pet.

#### Red Wolf

The Red Wolf may be black, brown, tan, or red and has long, slender legs that are adapted for long distance running. This carnivore's diet consists of small mammals, especially rabbit. It was nearly eliminated by 1980, but is slowly being reintroduced to its natural range in the Southeastern United States. A sociable animal with a distinct "sad and dismal" wailing howl, Red Wolves roam in mated pairs and temporary packs.



John Woodhouse Audubon *Grizzly Bear*, 1848

Plate 131

Order: Carnivora Family: Ursidae Species: Ursus arctos

Common Modern Name: Grizzly Bear

Show Image Four to your students and use the questions below to guide your students in a discussion.

- Look closely at the picture. Does the bears' fur look soft or rough? Describe the lines and shapes that you see that create texture. (i.e., numerous short and long lines, curves, and thick and thin lines make up the texture of the fur.)
- Now, look closely at the bears. If you could use only geometric shapes to draw these bears, what shapes would you use? Explain.
- Look at the colors in this work of art. What different colors did the artist use to paint the bears? (Notice the grizzlies' whitish tips on their hair; this gives them a "grizzled" look which means streaked with gray.) What other colors do you see in the artwork? Why do you think these colors were used?
- By looking closely at the bears' surroundings, what clues can you find about the bears' habitat—the environment needed by a particular species for survival. (Grizzlies live inland away from the ocean unlike the coastal brown bear. They eat meat, although plants, berries, and nuts make up most of their diet.)
- What makes this work of art look real to you? What makes it look unreal?

#### Grizzly Bear

The largest land carnivore in the world, the Grizzly Bear inhabits the mountains, forests, valleys, and meadows of Canada, Alaska, Northwestern United States, and a few areas in Mexico. This ursidae has a wide-ranging diet including fish, insects, small mammals, elk, moose, livestock, and vegetation. Adult Grizzlies usually weigh between 500-650 pounds. They become lethargic and remain in their dens during winter, putting on a layer of fat of up to 400 pounds. Grizzly Bears do not hibernate.

United States Grizzlies are greatly endangered and are the most dangerous of all bears. While they normally avoid humans, a Grizzly will attack when startled, scared, sick, wounded, or when defending their young. Young cubs can climb trees but adults are too heavy for climbing. This bear normally moves with a slow, clumsy walk, swinging its head back and forth, but can lope as fast as a horse. If charged by a Grizzly, stand your ground; if attacked, lie flat on your stomach and play dead.



John James Audubon American Beaver, 1844

Plate 46

Order: Rodentia Family: Castoridae

Species: Castor Canadensis

Common Modern Name: American Beaver

Show Image Five to your students and use the questions below to guide your students in a discussion.

• Look closely at the American Beaver. Unlike other naturalists at the time, Audubon's animal illustrations included backgrounds to tell viewers about the animal's habitat. What did the artist include in this image to tell you about the Beavers' habitat? (i.e., trees, plants, lots of water, sitting on the bank—or slope—above the water.)

Beavers that live along a river generally make burrows with an underwater entrance in the riverbank. Those that live in quiet streams, lakes, and ponds usually build dams and a lodge (home) with an underwater entrance. They use sticks and mud to build their home just above water level. Tunnels to the lodge lead down to the deep water where they store their food.

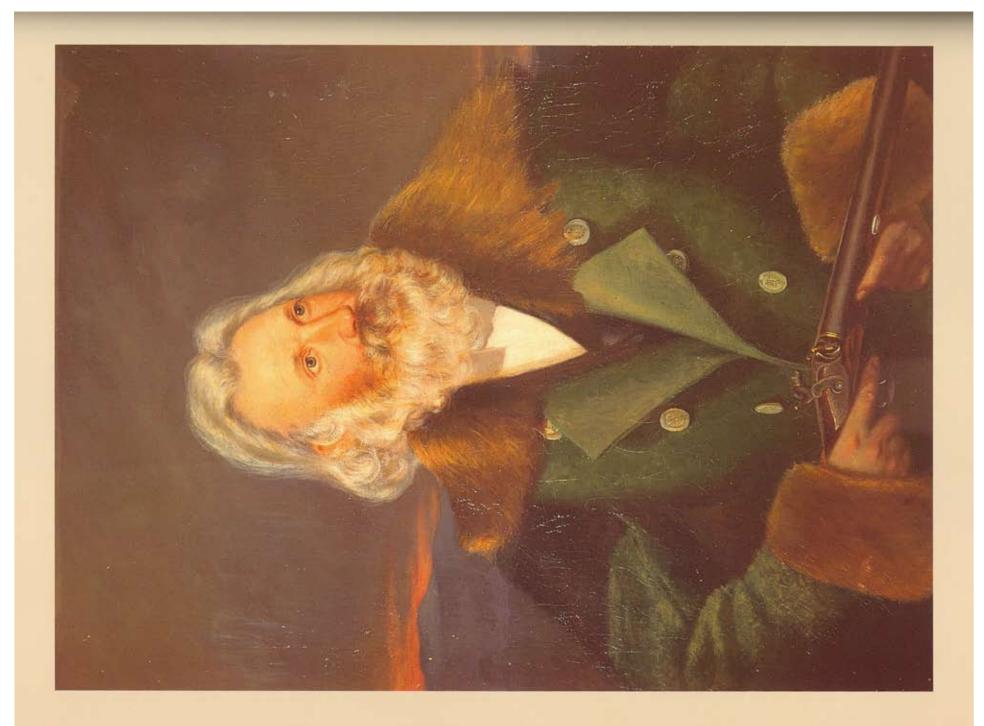
- Audubon's animal illustrations also provide clues to the animal's physical characteristics and how it lives. What physical characteristics did the artist emphasize about the Beaver? (i.e., the Beaver is gnawing at the tree with his front teeth, the Beaver's teeth are shown in profile to show their size, the Beaver's webbed feet are emphasized, as are the front paws)
- Did you notice the Beaver's tail? Describe what it looks like.(i.e., wide, flat, etc.)
- What does this image tell you about how the Beaver lives?

Beavers gnaw at trees to bite out wood chips and to trim branches. Their big front teeth are sharp and they can take out a large chip of wood in a single bite. The beaver trims off branches, cuts them into convenient sizes, and carries them in its mouth to the dam. There it either eats the bark, turning the branches in its forefeet, or stores them underwater for winter use. Beavers spend much of their time in water. There large hind feet are webbed, much like a duck's feet. Their feet make them very good swimmers and divers. The Beaver's tail also helps it swim—its wide and flat shape acts like a boat rudder when the Beaver swims side to side and to dive deep. Lastly, when the Beaver sits upright to gnaw at a tree it uses its tail as a brace.

The American Beaver is primarily nocturnal—an animal that is active at night and inactive during the day. By looking at this artwork what time of day do you think it is? In making this work of art, what problems might the artist have faced along the way?

#### American Beaver

The American Beaver essentially resides in Canada and the United States and is most likely to be seen in the evening. This large rodent has a flat tail, oily fur, and two split nails on the inner part of its webbed hind feet. It builds dams and lodges in quiet streams, lakes, and ponds or will make a burrow along a riverbank; all with underwater entrances. The American Beaver is more comfortable in the water than on land and may remain submerged for up to 15 minutes. Hunted mostly by the otter, it is also preyed upon by the Gray Wolf, Coyote, Common Red Fox, and Bobcat.



John Woodhouse Audubon

John James Audubon, c. 1843

Oil on canvas

Courtesy, Department of Library Sciences, American Museum of Natural History, New York

John Woodhouse Audubon painted this portrait of his father after John James Audubon returned from his trip up the Missouri River to document the mammals of North America.